

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-18



1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:2. Paul refers to the Corinthian church as being "at" or "in" Corinth, as opposed to "of" Corinth. Why do you think he refers to it in this way? Who or what *is* the Church of God? How does one become a "member?" (see *all* of 1 Corinthians 1:2, Acts 2:46-47, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 1:22-23). If these verses define how we become part of the body of Christ, then what about churches or denominations who worship differently than we do? What are the essentials that unite us?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:9. Paul uses the word "fellowship," or *koinonia* (Strong's G2842.) What is the definition of *koinonia*? What do we share as believers that changes mere friendship or social interaction into fellowship? (see 1 John 1:3, 1 John 1:6-7, Philippians 2:1-2, 1 Peter 3:8) How is fellowship different from interaction with family and friends who are not believers? What does *koinonia* look like? (see Acts 2:42, Colossians 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13-14). What motivates us to seek out fellowship with other Christians?
3. Read verses 10 - 13. What does Paul see as a growing problem in the Church at Corinth? What does Paul see as the reason for the division? How does that look in the church today? What was Paul's attitude towards division? (see Romans 16:17-18). What motivates people into this type of behavior? What do you see as some reasons for division in the church today? What is the danger of this behavior? How can we follow Paul's command to "agree with one another" and "that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought". (See Ephesians 4:2-6 and Philippians 2:3).
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. What is the purpose of the cross? Why was the cross a stumbling block to the Jews? (See Romans 11:26). What were they looking for? (read John 12:12-19). How did they act towards Jesus when He was crucified? (Read Matthew 27:39-43). Read 1 Corinthians 1:18 23-24. What is the message of the cross? (See also John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Galatians 2:20 and 6:14). What were they looking for? (Read John 6:15, John 12:12-13.) How did they act towards Jesus when He was crucified? (Read Matthew 27:39-43.) Why was the cross "foolishness" to the Greeks? (Read Acts 17:18-21, 32.) Have you encountered either reaction when trying to share the gospel or discuss your faith with people today? How is it that we who believe recognize the power of God in the message of the cross, but to non-believers, it is foolishness? (See Acts 2:44-48.) In verse 18, Paul refers to those who resist the message of the gospel as those who "are perishing," rather than as those who are "going to perish." Why? How should this make us feel toward the unsaved?